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NEWS RELEASE

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New Director of Office of Special Populations Named

PROVIDENCE – An administrator with more than 27 years of experience working with students with disabilities has begun work as the Director of the Office of Special Populations at the R.I. Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (RIDE).

Kenneth G. Swanson, formerly the assistant Superintendent for Unified Learning Support Services at the Coventry Public Schools, began his work at RIDE on Monday (Feb. 6).

Before working in Coventry, Swanson had been the Assistant Superintendent for Special Services for the Providence Public Schools, a position he held from 2000 to 2004. Swanson was also an administrator in the Randolph, Mass., public schools and in several school districts in the State of New York.

Swanson, who lives in Cranston, holds a bachelor's degree in Special Education from the State University College at Geneseo, N.Y., and a master's degree in Special Education from the State University College at Binghamton, N.Y.

As director of the RIDE Office of Special Populations, Swanson is responsible for leading, managing, and providing technical assistance to school personnel and parents so as to ensure that all children, especially those who have disabilities, who are learning English as a second language, or who are gifted and talented are instructed by well-prepared teachers.

He will lead RIDE efforts to collect and examine data relevant to the education of special student populations, and he will evaluate federal and state policies and procedures, identify gaps in services or unmet needs, and develop training and technical assistance for teachers and families.

Swanson replaces Thomas DiPaola, who is the Superintendent of the Westerly Public Schools.

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